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(71) Applicant: MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC
INDUSTRIAL CO., LTD.
1006, Oaza Kadoma
Kadoma-shi, Osaka-fu, 571(JP)

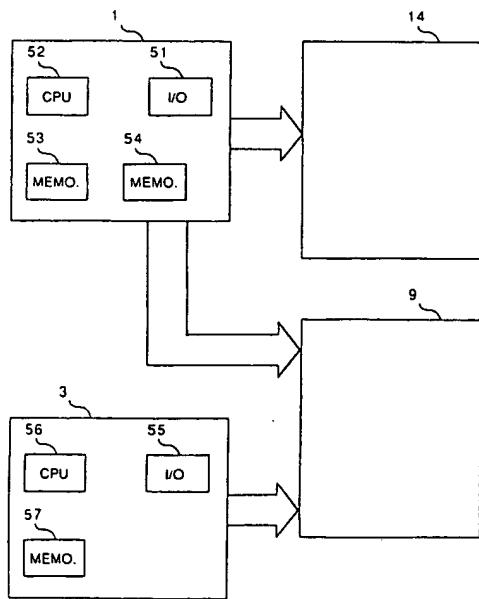
(72) Inventor: Mutoh, Yoshihiro
4-18, Takada-cho
Ibaragi-shi, Osaka-fu(JP)
Inventor: Takagi, Nobuya
11-5, Suehiro-cho
Neyagawa-shi, Osaka-fu(JP)
Inventor: Oka, Takuya
1-24-16, Korigaoka
Hirakata-shi, Osaka-fu(JP)

(74) Representative: Eisenführ, Speiser & Partner
Martinistrasse 24
W-2800 Bremen 1 (DE)

(54) Data transfer method.

(57) A data transfer method which is so arranged that, through employment of a portable terminal unit (14), part or all of the data store in a first memory of a first IC card (1) is transferred to a second memory of the first IC card (1). By depressing a total sum push-button of a data transfer terminal device (i.e., settling terminal device) (9), with the first IC card (1) and a second IC card (3) inserted in the data transfer terminal device (9), all the data within the second memory of the first IC card (1) is transferred to a memory of the second IC card (3).

Fig. 1



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DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Before the description of the present invention proceeds, it is to be noted that like parts are designated by like reference numerals throughout the accompanying drawings.

(First embodiment)

Referring now to the drawings, there is shown in Fig. 1, a block diagram explanatory of a data transfer method according to one preferred embodiment of the present invention, in which there are provided a first data carrier or first IC card 1 (referred to as a first IC card hereinafter) and a second data carrier or second IC card 3 (referred to as a second IC card hereinafter) to be inserted into a portable terminal unit 14 and a settling terminal device 9 in a manner to be described below.

The IC card 1 includes at least a coupling means 51 with respect to external appliances, a calculating means 52, a first memory 53 and a second memory 54, and is arranged to communicate with the external appliances through said coupling means 51. Similarly, the IC card 3 includes at least a coupling means 55 with respect to external appliances, a calculating means 56, and a memory 57, and is arranged to communicate with the external appliances through said coupling means 55. It is to be noted here that the first memory 53 and the second memory 54 of the first IC card 1 may be physically the same one so far as they are logically separated. The construction of the settling terminal device 9 will be described later with reference to Figs. 3 and 4, while that of the portable terminal unit 14 will also be explained later by referring to Figs. 6 and 7.

In the data transfer method according to the present invention, it is so arranged that a bearer of the IC card 1 preliminarily transfers at least part of the data of the first memory 53 of said IC card 1, to the second memory 54 thereof by using the portable terminal unit 14, and a bearer of the IC card 3 (e.g., a store) transfers the data from the second memory 54 of the IC card 1 to the memory 57 of the IC card 3 by using the settling terminal device 9.

Subsequently, an account settling system employing the data transfer method according to the present invention will be explained.

Fig. 2 shows a block diagram of the account settling system using the data transfer method according to one preferred embodiment of the present invention. In Fig. 2, Numeral 1 represents a first data carrier or IC card lent to a person or individual A (or a store and/or company) who has an account with a C bank 2, from said C bank 2, while Numeral 3 denotes a second data carrier or

IC card lent to a person B (or a store and/or company) who has an account with a D bank 4, from said D bank 4, and Numeral 14 represents a portable terminal unit for the person A.

Still referring to Fig. 2, the arrangement of the account settling method using the IC cards will be described hereinbelow.

When the person A carries out a predetermined operation, with the first IC card 1 inserted into an ATM 5 (Automated Teller Machine, referred to as ATM hereinafter) of the C bank 2, a certain sum of money e.g., two million yen is deducted from the account of the person A, and is retained in balance in the memory of the IC card 1. Simultaneously, the data is also transmitted to a host computer 7 connected with the ATM 5 through a communication line 6, and two million yen is held out of the balance in the account of the person A.

The person A brings the first IC card 1 to a B store 8 so as to use said first IC card 1 for the account settlement at the B store 8. This B store 8 is, for example, a pay-in-cash wholesaler or the like. The person A is to settle for e.g., 1,500,000 yen at the B store 8. It should be noted here that it is also possible to settle the account by taking the portable terminal unit 14 to the B store 8 in the above case.

Firstly, the person A inserts the IC card 1 into the portable terminal unit 14 for the person A so as to notify the IC card 1 to use 1,500,000 yen from the portable terminal unit 14. More specifically, the IC card 1 has first and second memories 53 and 54 (Fig. 1), and based on the instruction from the portable terminal unit 14, the amount to be used this time (i.e., 1,500,000 yen here) is transferred to the second memory 54 from the first memory 53 in which the data for the 2,000,000 yen is retained as the balance. (Hereinafter, the IC card in which money data has been entered in the second memory 54 will be represented as 1').

Then, the person A inserts the first IC card 1' into a first insertion slot of the settling terminal device 9 installed at the B store 8, and the B store 8 inserts the second IC card 3 into a second insertion slot thereof. By depressing a confirmation push-button 23 (Fig. 3) of the settling terminal device 9, the B store 8 can ensure the amount retained in the second memory of the first IC card 1', and by depressing a total sum push-button 22 (Fig. 3) of the settling terminal device 9, all of the sum of money 1,500,000 yen retained in the second memory 54 of the first IC card 1' is transferred into the memory 57 of the second IC card 3 and thus, the second IC card 3 is to have received 1,500,000 yen from the first IC card 1'. The result is transmitted to the host computer 11 of the D bank 4 through a communication line 10.

ted, and may be modified to be incorporated in the settling terminal device 9. In this case, the second IC card insertion slot 25 of the terminal device 9 can be dispensed with, while the second IC card 3 may be replaced by another item having a shape other than a card so far as it has a similar function. However, such an item should be physically safe so that the data stored inside may not be unduly altered. Furthermore, when the B store 8 is to pay, the settling terminal device 9 is taken to the bank, and therefore, it is desirable to be of a size capable of carrying about.

Fig. 4 shows a block diagram of the settling terminal device 9 to be employed in the account settling system according to the present invention.

The first IC card 1 is inserted into a first IC card reader/writer (referred to as R/W hereinafter) 26 through the first insertion slot 24. The second IC card 3 is inserted into a second IC card R/W 27 through the second insertion slot 25. The bearer of the first IC card 1 carries out the operation by a predetermined procedure through the key pad 16, while checking the contents of the display window 19, and upon input of the recitation number of the first IC card 1 by the PIN pad 17, a CPU (central processing unit) 37 effects the fund transfer, through a system bus 38, from the first IC card 1 in the first IC card R/W 26 to the second IC card 3 in the second IC card R/W 27, with the result of transactions being accumulated in the memory 30. Further, the result of transactions thus accumulated in the memory 30 is sent to the bank through a modem 29 and the communication line 10. The terminal device 9 is also provided with a back-up power source 28 for supply of power to the CPU 37 and the respective input and output devices so as to complete the normal processing even when the power should fail during the processing. The memory 30 coupled to the CPU 37 through the system bus 38 may be divided into a memory portion for storing the program, a memory portion for storing temporary information in the course of processing, and a memory portion for storing the result of transactions, etc., of which in the memory portion for storing the result of transactions, EEPROM (Electrically Erasable Programmable Read Only Memory) which is a non-volatile memory retaining its contents even after the power is cut off, is employed for extra safety. Moreover, since the CPU 37 is incorporated with a logic for coding, and the data for the memory to be stored with the result of transactions is of the coded data, alteration of the data by ill-intention or the like can not be effected, and thus, consideration is given to the safety of the data and security within the settling terminal device 9. Furthermore, for still more improved security, it is so arranged, for example, that coding logic is incorporated similarly in the IC card

1 or 3.

It is to be noted here that, in the foregoing embodiment, although the ATM 5 or 12 is employed as the input device into the IC card at the bank, the device is not limited to the above, but may be of any other device so far as it has the similar functions. Meanwhile, in the above embodiment, the explanation is given with reference to the case where the two banks are connected by the BANKS net 13, but they may be modified to be directly connected by an exclusive circuit line or connected through other networks such as MICS net, etc. Moreover, one or both banks 2 and 4 may be of post offices or other banking facilities, while the connection may be made not between two banks, post offices etc., but between the same bank or same post office. Further, the terminal device 9 need not be located in the B store 8, but may be installed in one or both of the banks or post offices.

In the foregoing embodiment, although the person A is adapted to effect settlement by using one IC card 1, explanation will be given hereinbelow with reference to the case where two or more IC cards are employed.

(Second embodiment)

Fig. 5 shows a block diagram for explaining a data transfer method according to a second embodiment of the present invention, in which there are provided a first IC card 111, a second IC card 112, and a third IC card 121 which are to be coupled with a first portable terminal unit 14 and a second portable terminal unit 14' in a manner as described hereinbelow.

The IC card 111 includes at least a coupling means 61 with respect to external appliances, a calculating means 62 and a memory 63, and communicates with the external appliances through the coupling means 61. The IC card 112 includes at least a coupling means 64 with respect to external appliances, a calculating means 65 and a memory 66, and communicates with the external appliances through the coupling means 64. The IC card 121 includes at least a coupling means 67 with respect to external appliances, a calculating means 68 and a memory 69, and communicates with the external appliances through the coupling means 67.

In the data transfer method according to this embodiment, it is so arranged that a bearer of the IC card 111 preliminarily transfers at least part of the data of the memory 63 of said IC card 111, to the memory 66 of the IC card 112 by using the portable terminal unit 14, and a bearer of the IC card 121 (e.g., store) transfers the data from the memory 66 of the IC card 112 to the memory 69 of the IC card 121 through employment of the porta-

be effected, and thus, consideration is given to the safety of the data and security also within the portable terminal unit 14.

According to the data transfer method of the present invention, it may be so arranged that in order to guarantee the validity of the sum of money to be transferred, certification is first effected mutually between the IC card and the portable terminal unit, and thereafter, electronic signs are affixed to the money data transferred between the respective IC cards. Such arrangement may be readily realized through employment of the calculating function of the IC card. In this case, since the validity of the data can be confirmed by merely checking the sign affixed to the money data as transferred, it is not particularly necessary to ensure by on-line through the communication line.

Furthermore, as the feature available by employing the IC cards, in the similar method as in the embodiment of the present invention, the B store can transfer the electronic funds from the third IC card 121 for another payment by using a fourth IC card (not shown) of the B store, thereby to achieve still more efficient circulation of electronic money data.

As is clear from the foregoing description, according to the present invention, since the account settling system employing the IC card which is the medium convenient to handle at high security, may be realized, various problems inherent in the conventional arrangements using cash and checks for settlement, such as bulkiness, troublesome procedure for counting, difficulty in quick encashment, low security, and risk of crime, etc. can be advantageously solved.

Furthermore, by preliminarily setting the sum to be paid by the individual in the IC card at the portable terminal unit, the transactions in the data transfer terminal device may be simplified at the side of the store for electronic fund transfer at high security.

Although the present invention has been fully described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings, it is to be noted here that various changes and modifications will be apparent to those skilled in the art. Therefore, unless otherwise such changes and modifications depart from the scope of the present invention, they should be construed as included therein.

Claims

1. A data transfer method which comprises the steps of transferring at least part of data memorized in a first non-volatile memory means of a first data carrier (1) to a second non-volatile memory means of the first data carrier (1) by a portable terminal unit (14) for

receiving said first data carrier (1) which is portable and includes at least a coupling means with the terminal unit, rewritable first and second non-volatile memory means, and a calculating means, and thereafter, transferring all the data memorized in the second non-volatile memory means of said first data carrier (1) to a non-volatile memory means of a second data carrier (3) by a data transfer terminal device (9) for receiving the second data carrier (3) which is portable and includes at least a coupling means with the terminal unit, a rewritable non-volatile memory means, and a calculating means, and also, said first data carrier (1).

2. A data transfer method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said portable terminal unit (14) includes at least coupling means with the data carriers, and an external input means, thereby to transfer predetermined data from the first non-volatile memory means of the data carrier to the second non-volatile memory means thereof according to a recitation number and instruction inputted from the external input means by a bearer of said data carrier.
3. A data transfer method which comprises the steps of transferring at least part of data memorized in a first non-volatile memory means of a data carrier to a second non-volatile memory means of the data carrier by a portable terminal unit (14) for receiving said data carrier which is portable and includes at least a coupling means with the terminal unit, rewritable first and second non-volatile memory means, and a calculating means, and thereafter, transferring all the data memorized in the second non-volatile memory means of said data carrier to a non-volatile memory means of a data transfer terminal device (9) by the data transfer terminal device (9) for receiving said data carrier.
4. A data transfer method which comprises the steps of transferring at least part of data memorized in a non-volatile memory means of a first data carrier (111) to a non-volatile memory means of a second data carrier (112) by a first portable terminal unit (14) for receiving said first and second data carriers (111, 112) each being portable and including at least a coupling means with the terminal unit, rewritable non-volatile memory means, and a calculating means, and thereafter, transferring all the data memorized in the non-volatile memory means of said second data carrier (112) to a non-volatile memory means of a third data

Fig. 1

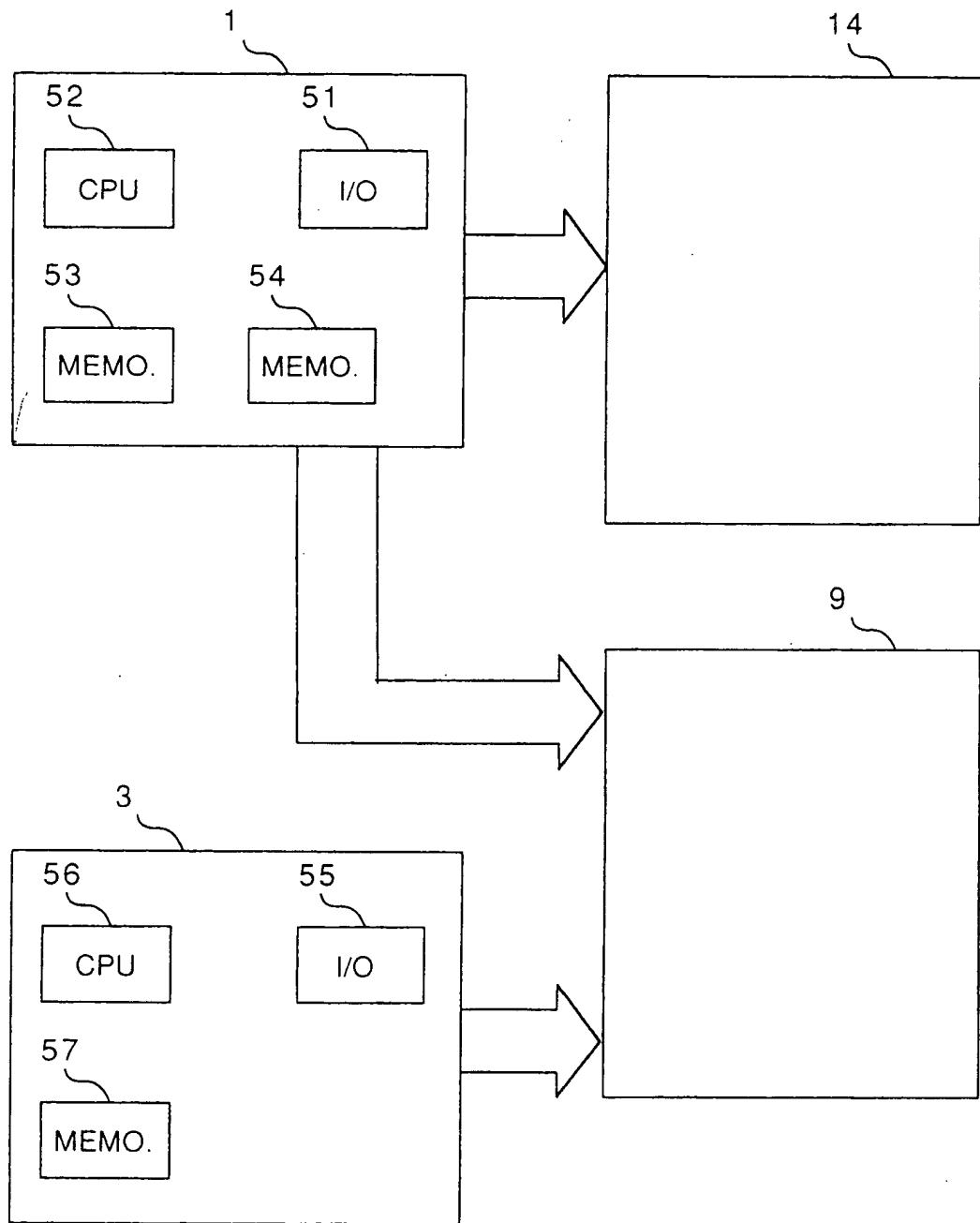


Fig. 3

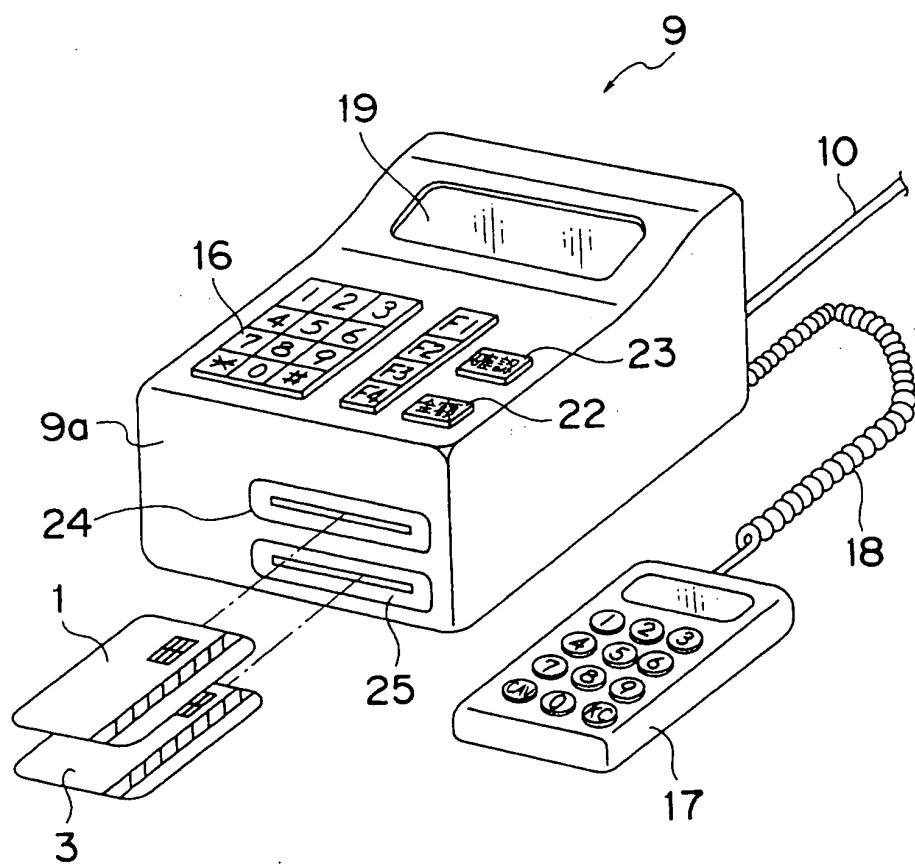
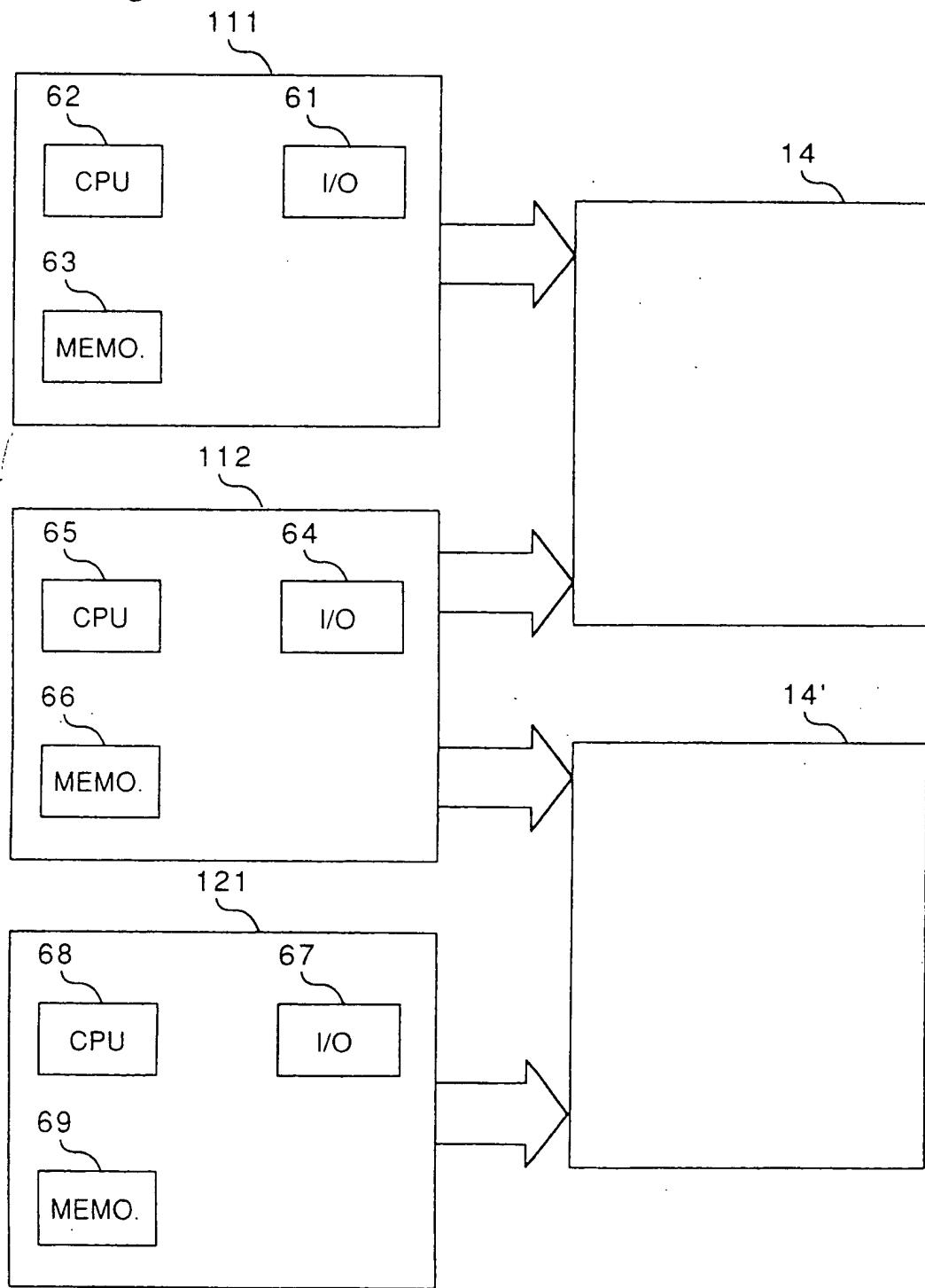


Fig.5



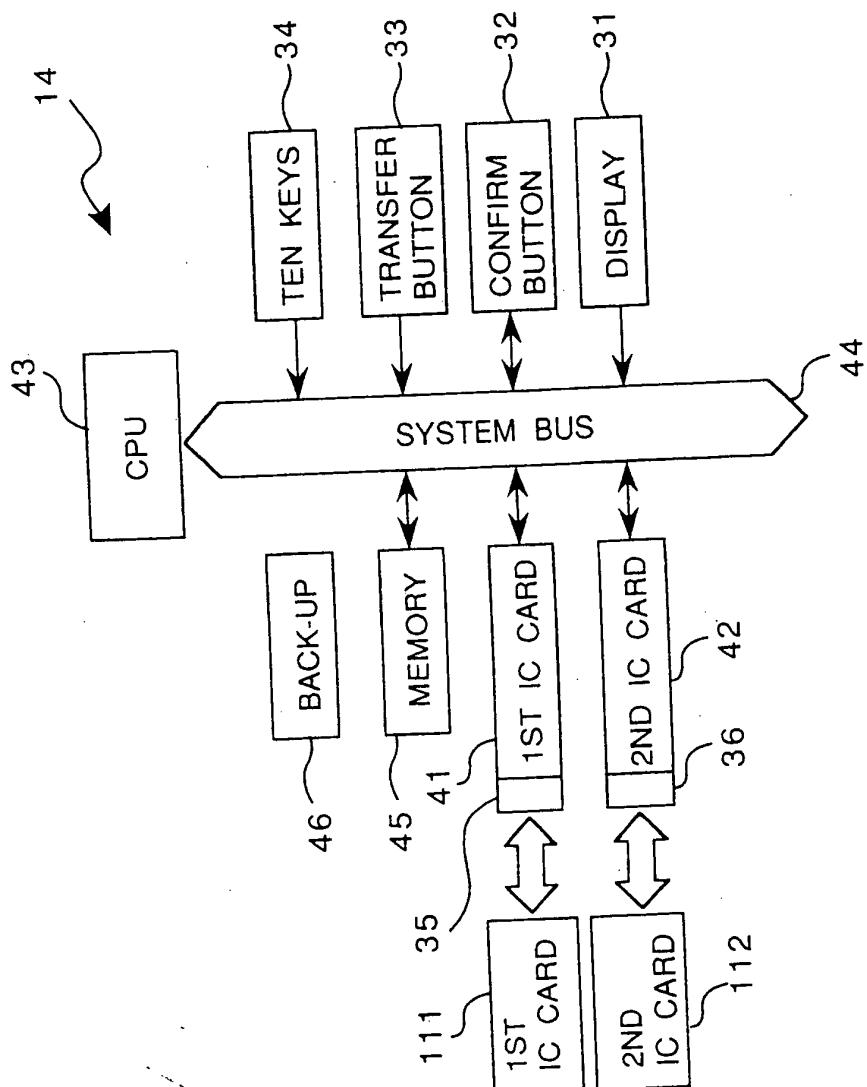


Fig. 7